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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

23 RICHARD KADREY, *et al.*,
 24 Individual and Representative Plaintiffs,
 25 v.
 26 META PLATFORMS, INC., a Delaware
 corporation,
 28 Defendant.

Case No. 3:23-cv-03417-VC-TSH

**DEFENDANT META PLATFORMS, INC.'S
ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION TO FILE UNDER
SEAL AND TO CONSIDER WHETHER
ANOTHER PARTY'S MATERIAL SHOULD BE
SEALED RE: META'S REPLY IN SUPPORT
OF ITS MOTION FOR PARTIAL SUMMARY
JUDGMENT**

1 Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 79-5(c) and 79-5(d), Defendant Meta Platforms, Inc. (“Meta”)
 2 moves this Court for an Order allowing Meta to file under seal confidential, narrowly tailored
 3 portions of Meta’s Reply in Support of its Motion for Partial Summary Judgment (“Reply Brief”)
 4 and accompanying materials. Meta respectfully submits that compelling reasons exist for the filing
 5 of these materials under seal. The Motion is based on the following Memorandum of Points and
 6 Authorities and the Declaration of Kyanna Sabanoglu (“Sabanoglu Declaration”) in support of this
 7 Motion.

8 Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 79-5(f), Meta also respectfully submits this Administrative
 9 Motion to Consider Whether Another Party’s Material Should Be Sealed in connection with Meta’s
 10 Reply Brief and accompanying materials.

11 A [Proposed] Order is filed concurrently herewith.

12 **I. LEGAL STANDARD**

13 Though the presumption of public access to judicial proceedings and records is strong, it
 14 “is not absolute.” *Nixon v. Warner Commc’ns. Inc.*, 435 U.S. 589, 598 (1978). The Ninth Circuit
 15 treats dispositive versus non-dispositive motions (and documents attached thereto) differently for
 16 purposes of sealing. *Kamakana v. City & Cnty. of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1180 (9th Cir. 2006);
 17 *Ctr. for Auto Safety v. Chrysler Grp.*, 809 F.3d 1092, 1098 (9th Cir. 2016). Whereas non-
 18 dispositive motions are subject to the “good cause” standard, dispositive motions are subject to the
 19 “compelling reason” standard. *Kamakana*, 447 F.3d at 1179-80 (detailing distinction between
 20 “compelling reason” and “good cause” standards as applied to dispositive and non-dispositive
 21 motions); *see also OpenTV v. Apple*, No. 14-cv-01622-HSG, 2015 WL 5714851, at *2
 22 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 17, 2015). The Federal Rules afford district courts “flexibility in balancing and
 23 protecting the interests of private parties.” *Kamakana*, 447 F.3d at 1180; *DSS Tech. Mgmt. v.*
 24 *Apple*, No. 14-cv-05330-HSG, 2020 WL 210318, at *8 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 14, 2020), *aff’d*, 845 F.
 25 App’x 963 (Fed. Cir. 2021) (finding good cause to seal “confidential business and proprietary
 26 information”). “In general, ‘compelling reasons’ sufficient to outweigh the public’s interest in
 27 disclosure and justify sealing court records exist when such court files might have become a vehicle
 28 for improper purposes, such as the use of records to gratify private spite, promote public scandal,

1 circulate libelous statements, or release trade secrets.” *Kamakana*, 447 F.3d at 1179 (internal
2 quotations and citation omitted).

3 **II. ARGUMENT**

4 Given the dispositive nature of the underlying motions, the compelling reason standard
5 applies here. The Supreme Court has limited “the right to inspect and copy judicial records,”
6 recognizing that “the common-law right of inspection has bowed before the power of a court to
7 insure that its records are not used . . . as sources of business information that might harm a litigant’s
8 competitive standing.” *Nixon v. Warner Commc’ns*, 435 U.S. 589, 598 (1978). Similarly, the Ninth
9 Circuit recognizes that the Federal Rules afford district courts “flexibility in balancing and
10 protecting the interests of private parties.” *Kamakana*, 447 F.3d at 1180; *In re Elec. Arts*, 298 F.
11 App’x 568, 569 (9th Cir. 2008) (granting petition for writ of mandamus and overturning the district
12 court’s decision that terms of licensing agreement did not meet the “compelling reason” standard).

13 In consideration of the Court’s guidance in its Sealing Order, Meta requests sealing only
14 narrowly tailored portions of the documents in the following chart. Specifically, Meta respectfully
15 requests the Court’s permission to seal three discrete categories of information: **(1)** information
16 subject to third-party confidentiality obligations; **(2)** Meta’s highly confidential and proprietary
17 technical information, including non-public portions of Meta’s source code, and **(3)** portions of
18 internal Meta IP addresses, file paths, and document URL paths, disclosure of which risks
19 facilitating access by unauthorized parties—any limited public interest in accessing these materials
20 is substantially outweighed by the strong security and competitive interests that Meta has in
21 maintaining their confidentiality. The information sought to be sealed is highly confidential, and
22 Meta has applied the least redactions possible in order to minimize the risk to Meta, while balancing
23 the need for public access to the information.

Document	Sealing Request
Sabanoglu Ex. A – Meta’s Reply Brief	Portions annotated in BLUE
Sabanoglu Ex. B – Ex. 58 to the Ghajar Declaration	Portions annotated in BLUE

1 2 3 4	Sabanoglu Ex. C – Ex. 61 to the Ghajar Declaration	Portions annotated in BLUE
	Sabanoglu Ex. D – Ex. 62 to the Ghajar Declaration	Portions annotated in BLUE

5 Courts in this district have found compelling reasons to seal such materials, including:
6 **(1) materials subject to third-party confidentiality obligations, e.g.,** (Dkt. 393 (granting Meta's
7 previous request to seal documents based on third-party confidentiality obligations, (Dkt. 391-1,
8 ¶ 6)); *Open Text S.A. v. Box*, No. 13-cv-04910-JD, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 177484, at *18, *35,
9 *48 (N.D. Cal. Dec. 26, 2014) (finding compelling reasons to seal agreements subject to third party
10 confidentiality obligations); *Ovonic Battery v. Sanyo Elec.*, No. 14-cv-01637-JD, 2014 WL
11 3749152, at *3 (N.D. Cal. July 24, 2014) ("compelling reasons . . . to seal . . . confidential
12 [agreement] terms . . ."); *GoPro Hong Kong v. 2b Trading*, No. 16-cv-05113-JD, 2017 U.S. Dist.
13 LEXIS 27380, at *5 (N.D. Cal. Feb. 27, 2017) (similar); *Baird v. Blackrock Institutional Tr.*, 403
14 F. Supp. 3d 765, 792 (N.D. Cal. 2019) (collecting cases and holding that "[c]ourts have found that
15 'confidential business information' in the form of 'license agreements, financial terms, details of
16 confidential licensing negotiations, and business strategies' satisfies the 'compelling reasons'
17 standard"); **(2) Meta's highly confidential and proprietary technical information, including
18 non-public portions of source code, e.g.,** *Space Data Corp. v. Alphabet Inc.*, No. 16-CV-03260-
19 BLF, 2019 WL 285799, at *1 (N.D. Cal. Jan. 22, 2019) (finding information regarding party's
20 confidential and proprietary technical information sealable); *In re iPhone App. Litig.*, No. 11-md-
21 02250-LHK, 2013 WL 12335013, at *2 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 25, 2013) (granting motion to seal portions
22 of the parties' briefing on summary judgment and class certification, and accompanying materials
23 to "maintain[] the confidentiality of information about [defendant's] technology" and
24 **(3) confidential and proprietary information whose public disclosure increases cybersecurity
25 concerns, e.g.,** (Dkt. 393 (granting Meta's previous request to seal documents based on
26 cybersecurity concerns, (Dkt. 391-1, ¶ 9)); *Music Grp. Macao Com. Offshore Ltd. v. Foote*, No.
27 14-cv-03078-JSC, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 85089 , at *6 (N.D. Cal. June 30, 2015) (compelling
28 reasons to seal information concerning a party's "network infrastructure and security systems,"

1 which could increase the risk of cyberattack); *cf. Calhoun v. Google LLC*, No.
 2 20CV05146YGRSVK, 2022 WL 1122843 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 14, 2022) (good cause to seal
 3 information whose disclosure could “increase[] risk of cybersecurity threats”); *Brown v. Google*
 4 *LLC*, No. 20-cv-03664-YGR (SVK), 2022 WL 2289057 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 17, 2022) (similar); *An*
 5 *Phan v. Agoda Co. Pte. Ltd.*, No. 16-cv-07243-BLF, 2018 BL 387369 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 19, 2018)
 6 (similar). Here, compelling reasons exist to grant Meta’s sealing requests, which are critical to
 7 Meta’s third-party obligations, and to protecting Meta and its employees from harm.

8 In each of these instances, the harm to Meta outweighs the public’s interest in disclosure.
 9 *See, e.g., In re iPhone App. Litig.*, 2013 WL 12335013, at *2 (granting motion to seal where the
 10 defendant’s interest in maintaining the confidentiality of the information sought to be sealed
 11 outweighed that of the public in accessing such documents). Meta’s proposed redactions are
 12 narrowly tailored to include only that information which would cause specific, articulable harm, as
 13 identified in Ms. Sabanoglu’s Declaration, and are limited to materials that are either (1) tangential
 14 or irrelevant to the claims at issue in this case, such as source code and file pathways, or
 15 (2) confidential third-party information and/or proprietary information whose disclosure would
 16 cause competitive harm. Thus, not only is sealing the materials identified in the chart above
 17 necessary to safeguard Meta and third-party partners against competitive and illicit harms, but also
 18 the public’s interest in accessing these materials is minimal at best.

19 **III. ADMINISTRATIVE MOTION TO CONSIDER WHETHER ANOTHER PARTY’S MATERIAL**
 20 **SHOULD BE SEALED RE: META’S REPLY IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR SUMMARY**
 21 **JUDGEMENT**

22 Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 79-5(f), Meta respectfully submits this Administrative Motion
 23 to Consider Whether Another Party’s Material Should Be Sealed in connection with Meta’s Reply
 24 Brief and accompanying materials.

25 Meta is provisionally filing under seal certain portions of the Reply Brief and accompanying
 26 materials set forth in the chart below which may reflect information deemed confidential by
 27 Plaintiffs and/or third parties, including material that Plaintiffs and third parties have designated as
 28 “Confidential” or “Highly Confidential – Attorneys Eyes Only” pursuant to the parties’ Stipulated
 Protective Order (Dkt. 90, the “Protective Order”). Pursuant to the Parties’ Stipulation Extending

1 the Deadline for Third Party Sealings Regarding Motions for Summary Judgment (Dkt. 539,
 2 "Stipulation") entered on April 14, 2025, Meta proposes allowing third parties to submit
 3 declarations in support of sealing confidential third party information in Meta's Reply and related
 4 exhibits by April 25, 2025.

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Document	Sealing Request
Meta's Reply Brief	Portions annotated in GREEN and/or RED
Ex. 54 to the Ghajar Declaration	Portions annotated in GREEN
Ex. 64 to the Ghajar Declaration	Entire document
Declaration Of Professor Michael Sinkinson, Ph.D. In Support Of Meta's Reply In Support Of Its Motion For Partial Summary Judgment	Portions annotated in RED

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IV. CONCLUSION

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For the foregoing reasons, Meta respectfully requests that the Court grant this Motion.

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1 Dated: April 18, 2025

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